

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method for processing a call in a communications network dialed to an
2 Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability to implement a
3 desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the steps of:
4 receiving the call in the network for processing;
5 establishing a session with the IP endpoint by resolving an address associated
6 with the endpoint;
7 routing the call to the endpoint;
8 determining if the IP end point to which the call is routed to requires a multimedia
9 application, and if so,
10 providing such application.

1 2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the call received in the network
2 is a voice call and wherein the voice call is processed by converting the call into a Voice-
3 over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call and wherein signaling information associated with the
4 voice call is mapped into a format compatible with said VoIP call.

1 3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the multimedia application is a
2 stateful application and wherein the network actively monitors such application while the
3 call remains active.

1 4. The method according to claim 1 wherein the multimedia application is a
2 stateless application and wherein the network does not actively monitor the application.

1 5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the multimedia application
2 includes access to the Internet.

1 6. The method according to claim 1 wherein resolving the address of the IP
2 endpoint includes referencing the IP endpoint through a Universal Resource Locator

3 (URL) (or other indirect mapping) assigned to an address associated with that IP
4 endpoint.

1 7. The method according to claim 6 dynamically assigning the address of the
2 IP endpoint associated with the URL.

1 8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the call for
2 processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing
3 instructions irrespective of the format of the call.

1 9. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the call for
2 processing includes the step of accessing a common database to obtain a location routing
3 number for routing the call.

1 10. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of receiving the call for
2 processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing
3 instructions irrespective of the format of the call and to obtain a location routing number
4 for routing the call.

1 11. A method for processing a call in a communications network dialed to an
2 Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability to implement a
3 desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the steps of:
4 receiving the call in the network for processing, and if the call has a voice format,
5 then converting the call into a Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) call and mapping
6 signaling information associated with the voice call into a format compatible with said
7 VoIP call;
8 establishing a session with the IP endpoint by resolving an address associated
9 with the endpoint;
10 routing the VoIP call to the endpoint;
11 determining if the IP end point to which call routed to the endpoint requires a
12 multimedia application, and if so,

13 providing such application.

1 12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the multimedia application is a
2 stateful application and wherein the network actively monitors such application while the
3 call remains active.

1 13. The method according to claim 11 wherein the multimedia application is a
2 stateless application and wherein the network does not actively monitor the application.

1 14. The method according to claim 11 wherein the multimedia application
2 includes access to the Internet.

1 15. The method according to claim 11 wherein resolving the address of the IP
2 endpoint includes referencing the IP endpoint through a Universal Resource Locator
3 (URL) (or other mapping) assigned to an address associated with that IP endpoint.

1 16. The method according to claim 11 dynamically assigning the address of
2 the IP endpoint associated with the URL.

1 17. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving the call
2 for processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing
3 instructions.

1 18. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving the call
2 for processing includes the step of accessing a common database to obtain a location
3 routing number for routing the call.

1 19. The method according to claim 11 wherein the step of receiving the call
2 for processing includes the step of accessing a common database for call processing
3 instructions and to obtain a location routing number for routing the call.

1 20. A method for processing a call having a first format in a communications
2 network dialed to an Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability
3 to implement a desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the
4 steps of:

5 receiving the call in the network for processing, including accessing a first
6 common database, irrespective of the call format, obtain a location routing number for
7 routing the call;

8 establishing a session with the IP endpoint by resolving an address associated
9 with the endpoint; and

10 routing the call to the endpoint.

1 21. The method according to claim 20 wherein the step of receiving the call
2 for processing includes the step of accessing a second common database for call
3 processing instructions.

1 22. The method accordance to claim 20 wherein the first common database is
2 accessed to obtain the location routing number and call processing instructions for
3 processing instructions.

1 23. The method according to claim 20 further including the steps of:
2 determining if the IP end point to which call routed to the endpoint requires a
3 multimedia application, and if so,
4 providing such application.

1 24. The method according to claim 23 wherein the multimedia application is a
2 stateful application and wherein the network actively monitors such application while the
3 call remains active.

1 25. The method according to claim 23 wherein the multimedia application is a
2 stateless application and wherein the network does not actively monitor the application.

1 26. The method according to claim 23 wherein the multimedia application
2 includes access to the Internet.

1 27. The method according to claim 20 wherein resolving the address of the IP
2 endpoint includes referencing the IP endpoint through a Universal Resource Locator
3 (URL) (or other indirect mapping) assigned to an address associated with that IP
4 endpoint.

1 28. The method according to claim 27 further including the step of
2 dynamically assigning the address of the IP endpoint associated with the URL.

1 29. The method according to claim 20 wherein the call received in the
2 network has a voice format and wherein the voice call is processed by converting the call
3 into a Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) formatted call and wherein signaling
4 information associated with the voice call is mapped into a format compatible with said
5 VoIP formatted call.

1 30. A method for processing a call in a communications network dialed to an
2 Internet Protocol (IP) endpoint to afford the IP endpoint the ability to implement a
3 desired multimedia application in connection with the call, comprising the steps of:
4 receiving the call in the network for processing;
5 establishing a session with the IP endpoint by referencing the IP endpoint through
6 a Universal Resource Locator (URL) assigned to an address associated with that IP
7 endpoint; and
8 routing the call to the endpoint.

1 31. The method according to claim 30 further including the step of
2 dynamically assigning the address of the IP endpoint associated with the URL.
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- 4 A method where, if an IP address cannot be assigned to an IP endpoint (because, for
5 example the IP endpoint is turned off or in a failed condition), alternate call handling
6 instructions may be provided, including access to multimedia applications.
- 7 A method where an individual, while keeping his existing phone number, can “port” his
8 number from an existing circuit endpoint to a new IP endpoint (and vice versa), and
9 among IP endpoints.

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